



January 2020



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Happy New Year Murray City!

Oftentimes, when I meet up with a friend or family member that I haven't seen for a while, one or the other inevitably asks "what's new?" As I paused to ponder "what's new" in Murray City as we begin a new year, I reflected on several changes that will be important to Murray in 2020.

First, Murray welcomes two new council members, Kat Martinez in District 1 and Rosalba Dominguez in District 3. I believe a fresh perspective will be a good thing for the city. I wish these two new council members the very best, and thank them in advance for their service to Murray.

The new year will bring Census 2020. This year will be a milestone for Murray, as we will officially top a population of 50,000 residents. The census is important because it has an impact on state and local funding.

Murray will see new city construction projects in 2020. The beautiful new headquarters fire station on the corner of 4800 South and Box Elder will be completed in the next few weeks, and will house fire administration, fire prevention, fire training division, and emergency responders. The former headquarters fire station will be demolished soon after the new building is complete to make way for construction of the new Hanauer Street extension from 4800 South to Vine Street.

In addition, the long awaited new city hall building construction will begin in late spring of 2020, which I anticipate will jumpstart further development in that area. We are excited as we anticipate the significant improvements that will transform the vicinity into something we can all be proud of.

I'm delighted to note that we will have new pavilions in Murray Park in 2020! Murray Park is one of the most popular regional parks in the county, and the pavilions are utilized every day of the summer for reunions, company events, birthday parties, etc. These new pavilions will add to the safety and enjoyment of everyone who uses them.



We are constantly making upgrades to our infrastructure, and we will see two new water wells come on line in 2020, along with new road, sidewalk, water, sewer, and storm drain projects throughout the city. Unfortunately, there is never enough funding or resources to take care of all of the road and sidewalk needs, but we continue to make improvements each year.

The renovation of the historic Murray Theater will begin in 2020 as an architect and contractor are already working on the plans. The transformation of the theater into a year-round performance venue will become a real asset to our community.

Murray will see a number of new projects in 2020, from new single-family houses to multi-family homes to new retail and commercial projects. The transformation of the former Hillcrest Jr. High School site to a commercial development and the former K-Mart site to a new mixed use project are just two examples. The year 2020 looks to be another exciting one for Murray!

The American author Vern McLellan once wrote, "What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year." The improvements that 2020 will bring are the direct result of long-time planning and preparation by many people, both inside and outside the city.

I wish each of you a very happy and prosperous new year, and wish the very best for Murray City in 2020!